

What is claimed is:

1. A method for treating trabecular meshwork regions of a human eye, comprising the steps of:

(a) localizing a volume of particles carrying a selected chromophore within spaces of the

5 meshwork;

(b) irradiating the particles with a beam of photonic energy having a wavelength, power, and pulse duration that is absorbed by the selected chromophore; and

(c) wherein the chromophore comprises gold within a surface layer of said particles thereby applying energy to the irradiated region of the meshwork.

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2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the irradiating step causes a thermal effect within the irradiated region of the meshwork.

3. The method of Claim 1 wherein the irradiating step causes a cavitation effect within the irradiated

15 region of the meshwork.

4. The method of Claim 3 wherein said cavitation delivers mechanical energy to media within the meshwork.

20 5. The method of Claim 1 wherein the particles have an average diameter of less than about 500 nm.

6. The method of Claim 1 wherein the particles have an average diameter less than about 200 nm.

7. The method of Claim 1 wherein the irradiating step utilizes a wavelength domain ranging from about 380 nm to 820 nm.

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8. A system for delivering energy to trabecular meshwork regions of a human eye, comprising:

a volume of particles having an average cross-section of less than about 500 nm;

a coherent light source providing a selected wavelength in a range between about 380 nm and 820 nm; and

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wherein the particles have a gold surface.

9. The system of Claim 8 wherein the particles have an average diameter of less than about 500 nm.

10. The system of Claim 8 wherein the particles have an average diameter of less than about 100 nm.

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11. The system of Claim 12 wherein the particles comprise a gold particle.

12. The system of Claim 12 wherein the particles comprise a gold shell.

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13. A method for applying energy to a patient's trabecular meshwork, comprising the steps of:

(a) non-invasively irradiating the meshwork region with coherent light pulses having a wavelength between 380nm and 820 nm;

(b) wherein the power level, pulse duration and pulse interval are selected to cause microimplantables with a gold surface to absorb energy and thereby apply energy to surrounding body media.

14. The method of Claim 13 wherein said irradiating step causes thermal effects in said media.

15. The method of Claim 13 wherein said irradiating step causes acoustic effects in said media.